



IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE



SIERRA CLUB
IDAHO CHAPTER



June 23, 2020

Mr. William Dunkelberger
Objection Reviewing Officer and Forest Supervisor
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
1200 Franklin Way
Sparks, NV 89431
(775) 331-6444

Submitted electronically to william.dunkleberger@usda.gov and by mail

**RE: Newcrest Jarbidge Exploration Project Environmental Assessment Objection
Withdrawal**

To the Objection Reviewing Officer and Forest Supervisor William Dunkelberger, and District Ranger Joshua Nicholes:

The Idaho Conservation League (ICL), Idaho Rivers United (IRU), and the Idaho Chapter of the Sierra Club agree to withdraw our objection (#20-04-17-0039-218) to the Newcrest Jarbidge Exploration Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), Mountain City-Ruby Mountains-Jarbidge Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada based on the remedies agreed to in the Forest Service's Newcrest Objection Resolution Letter (File Code 1570 [218]), dated June 22, 2020.

The three organizations filed an objection based on three primary concerns: 1) Insufficient analysis to approve a 12-year permit for uncertain project undertakings beyond Phase 1; 2) Insufficient mitigation measures for the Jarbidge population of bull trout and their critical habitat; and 3) Insufficient water quality baseline data and ongoing monitoring. Our organizations subsequently participated in resolution conference calls on June 9 and June 12, 2020 with representatives from the U.S. Forest Service and Newcrest Resources. The additions to the Final Decision Notice described in the Newcrest Objection Resolution Letter (File Code 1570 [218]), dated June 22, 2020, adequately address the concerns raised in our objection. As

such, we fully withdraw our objection and waive and relinquish any and all legal rights to challenge the Final Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact if the commitments described in the Newcrest Objection Resolution Letter (dated June 22, 2020) are incorporated into the Final Decision Notice for this project.

We appreciated the opportunity to use the objection review process to discuss the project with the Forest Service and Newcrest. We feel that the outcome is an improved understanding of each other's perspectives, a stronger project record, increased certainty for the project, improved environmental safeguards and a better sense of how to develop future proposals in a way that addresses conservation concerns earlier in the process.

Respectfully submitted,



Josh Johnson
Conservation Associate
Idaho Conservation League
jjohnson@idahoconservation.org
(208) 726-7485 x 1



Nic Nelson
Executive Director
Idaho Rivers United
nic@idahorivers.org
(208) 343-7481



Eric Willadsen
Conservation Program Manager
Idaho Chapter Sierra Club
eric.willadsen@sierraclub.org
(208) 384-1023